

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
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AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NI
SUBJECT: THE FMG APPOINTS A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

REF: LAGOS 5753

1. SUMMARY: THE FMG HAS APPOINTED A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO REVIEW RECENT STUDENT PROBLEMS. OKEOWO REMAINS IN POLICE CUSTODY AND COURT MANEUVERING OVER HIS FUTURE CONTINUES. THE GENERAL SITUATION APPEARS TO HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 8 THE FMG APPOINTED A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO REVIEW THE RECENT STUDENT CRISIS. CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION IS JUSTICE USMAN MOHAMMED OF THE SOKOTO HIGH COURT AND THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS ARE DR. U.O. ELEAZU, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT CENTER (THINK TANK) AND MRS. FOLA AKINTUNDE-IGHODALO, FORMER PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE OLD WESTERN REGION MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND A DIRECTOR OF NIGERIA AIRWAYS. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSION IS TO COMPLETE ITS REPORT IN SIX WEEKS AND IS CHARGED WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE:
--INVESTIGATE AND DETERMINE THE FACTORS SURROUNDING THE RECENT CRISIS WITH REGARD TO (1) THE REMOTE AND IMMEDIATE CAUSES OF THE CRISIS; (2) THE ROLE OF STUDENT UNIONS AND THEIR LEADERSHIP IN CREATING DISTURBANCES; (3) THE EFFECT AND INFLUENCE,

IF ANY, OF EXTRANEIOUS BODIES ON STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

--DETERMINE THE NUMBER KILLED AND INJURED AND THE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY DURING THE CRISIS.

--INVESTIGATE AND DETERMINE THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES IN THE PREVENTION OF, OR THE ESCALATION OF, THE STUDENT UNREST, AND THE ROLE OF OTHER RELEBANT AUTHORITIES INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES DURING THE CRISIS.

--IN LIGHT OF ITS FINDINGS APPORTION BLAME AND MAKE SUITABLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT FUTURE CRISES IN THE UNIVERSITIES.

2. COURT MANUVERING OVER THE FATE OF STUDENT LEADER SEGUN OKEOWO CONTINUES. HEARINGS ON HIS SUIT TO BE REINSTATED IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HAVE BEEN DELAYED UNTIL MAY 18. HE REMAINS IN POLICE CUSTODY AFTE THE GOVERNMENT FAILED FOR TWO SUCCESSIVE DAYS TO PRODUCE THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ARREST AND DETENTION. STUDENTS WERE PRESENT YESTERDAY WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE COURT ACCOMPANIED BY "THREE LORRY-LOADS OF ARMED MOBILE POLICEMEN." ALTHOUGH THE PAPERS HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED IN REPORTING THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE COURT, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF SUGGESTIONS OF GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP REPORTED SEPTEL, BOTH THE DAILY TIMES AND THE NEW NIGERIAN REPORTED AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE JUDGE AND STATE COUNSELS WHO APPARENTLY LEFT THE COURT BECUASE OF THE "CHARGED ATMOSPHERE" AND THE FAILURE OF ONE GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY TO RETURN BECAUSE HE WAS "TAKING SHELTER" IN HIS CAR.

3. THE UNIVERSITIES OF SOKOTO AND MAIDUGURI HAVE REPORTEDLY REOPENED AND BAYERO IS EXPECTED TO REOPEN TODAY AND ILORIN TOMORROW.

4. COMMENT: WITH THE RETURN TO NORMALCY THE FMG IS BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF PUBLICLY ASSESSING BLAME. PRIVATELY WE UNDERSTAND FMG OFFICIALS BELIEVE "ANARCHISTS" (A CODE WORD FOR MARXISTS WITH LESS POLITICAL CONNNOTATION) WERE BEHIND THE PROBLEMS. IN FMG EYES THE MOTIVATION PRESUMABLY WAS TO CREATE A SITUATION OF ANARCHY SO AN IDEOLOGICALLY SOCIALIST REGIME COULD TAKE POWER.
WYMAN

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